



Plainfield Central Middle School

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Scott Gagnon, Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our entire school community continues to engage in the challenges of educating during trying and difficult times where all agree: safety matters, safety comes first.

Our 19-20 school year ended like no other year has and, unfortunately, the road continues to present many hills to climb for us in 20-21. I cannot say enough about the efforts that our faculty makes on a daily basis. It is not easy to teach via technology. There is NO substitute for an in-person educational experience. I also acknowledge the great responsibility that parents and guardians undertake each and every day. I see it with members of my own family – there are genuine daily challenges. Finally, I have tremendous empathy for our students, who have been required to change their approach to learning – and they are asked this at a young age...with high expectations.

Last week, our BOE unanimously voted to return students to the hybrid model, starting on October 19th. Here are a few key reminders for HYBRID students:

- “A” Cohort students will attend in-person on Mondays and Thursdays
- “B” Cohort students will attend in-person on Tuesdays and Fridays
- Parent drop off may begin at 8:00 AM in the lower lot
- Parent pick-up begins at 2:10 in the upper parking lot, opposite the cafeteria – please have ID
- Wednesday will be our remote learning day for all students, ending at 12:15

We have had a number of parents contact us to change their student from remote to hybrid so their child may attend in-person...PLEASE contact your child’s guidance counselor ASAP if interested. Our counselors are also contacting each “remote” student’s parent to verify the model you want is the model you chose.

We have a number of students who are listed as remote and will continue to receive their instruction via remote instruction. However, teachers simultaneously teaching in-person (hybrid) students AND students on the computer (remote) presents clear and observable challenges that simply impede the quality of education. I have spent much time during the last three weeks observing our teachers, many of them master teachers. I cannot begin to tell you the challenges that teaching two separate groups of students (at the same time), combined with the effects of technology (including consistent lag time and connectivity issues) presents for the teacher of middle level school students. We simply do not have enough adult support resources to place in classrooms to assist with educational monitoring, critical to this approach.

Our staff and district office have collaborated to meet this challenge and have started the process of changing/adding some teaching assignments. This allows us to align those students with remote only teachers. Our staff believes this optimizes our ability to reach *all* students. We are working diligently (and will need several more days to complete this process) to align the hybrid and remote schedules so that they closely mirror each other. Further details and adjusted schedules will be shared with you when this process is complete. Please note (as the Superintendent stated at the recent BOE mtg) that “remote” students *may* return to the hybrid model and their original program (within a five-day period) at any point in time.

I hope is that this correspondence provides you with an up-to-the-minute, accurate sharing of information about our upcoming changes. I assure you that this task is not a simple one and will be given the necessary attention before its completion.

With Sincerity,

SGagnon, Principal